REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 2, 2005. Claims 2-7 are presented for examination. Claim 4 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 2 has been amended as to matters of form only; no change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least this change. Claim 7 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 4 and 7 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) on the apparent ground that the limitation of displaying a message if a communication error occurs after the transmission of a SUB/DCS signal is not shown in the drawings. Applicant respectfully disagrees. That feature is clearly shown in at least Figure 8, steps 102, 106 and 108. The withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,062 (Endo), in view of Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 10-304166 (Yoshida).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claim 4 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that this amended independent claim and new independent Claim 7, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 is directed to an image communication apparatus transmitting a subaddress signal, the apparatus including: (1) extension number input means for inputting a plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal; (2) secondary telephone number input means for inputting a plurality of secondary telephone numbers; (3) direct input means for directly inputting particular information; and (4) display means for displaying an acknowledge message which is to confirm whether to send the particular information as information in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T. 33 when the particular information is input from the direct input means. The subaddress signal, with the plurality of the extension numbers designated by the extension number input means for inputting the plurality of the extension numbers, or the plurality of the secondary telephone numbers designated by the secondary telephone number input means for inputting the plurality of the secondary telephone numbers, or both the extension number and the secondary telephone number designated by the direct input means for directly inputting the particular information, is transmitted, and a message is displayed if a communication error occurs after the transmission of a SUB/DCS signal.

Endo does not teach or suggest all of these features and, from the Office Action, it is understood that the Examiner does not disagree.

Endo relates to a data transmission method wherein a message that is communicated from a first communication machine to a second communication machine is stored in a memory area in the second communication machine. The message can be altered on command from the first communication machine before being output by the second communication machine.

The Office Action cites column 3, lines 36-40 as disclosing the claimed extension number input means feature of Claim 4. However, that passage merely discusses that a facsimile machine A originates a call to facsimile machine B and sends a SUB signal, the subaddress comprising a box number (001), a message serial number (02), an add command code (01) and the designated page number (03). Nothing in that passage even suggests an "extension number input means for inputting a plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal," as recited in Claim 4 (emphasis added).

The Office Action cites column 4, lines 19-27 as disclosing the secondary telephone number input means feature of Claim 4. However, while that passage discusses a control panel 15 having a key pad for entering telephone numbers, and states that when sending a facsimile message to a mailbox in another facsimile machine, "the user uses the control panel 15 to designate the other facsimile machine and the mailbox" (column 4, lines 26-27), nothing in that passage teaches or suggests "secondary telephone number input means for inputting a plurality of secondary telephone numbers," as recited in Claim 4 (emphasis added).

In addition, nothing has been found in Endo that would teach or suggest "display means for displaying an acknowledge message which is to confirm whether to send the particular information as information in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T.33 when the particular information is input from the direct input means," as recited in Claim 4. While Endo discusses inputting and sending a subaddress signal in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T.30, it does not teach or suggest sending signals in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T.33.

Finally, the Office Action asserts that the "wherein" clause of Claim 4 is disclosed by Figures 1 and 4 of Endo. Applicant disagrees. Figure 1 illustrates a subaddress comprising a

box number (001), a message serial number (02), an add command code (01) and the designated page number (03). Figure 4 illustrates the signaling protocol during the call from one facsimile machine to a second facsimile machine. However, nothing in Figures 1 or 4 teaches or suggests the transmission of "a subaddress signal, with the plurality of the extension numbers designated by the extension number input means for inputting the plurality of the extension numbers, or the plurality of the secondary telephone numbers designated by the secondary telephone number input means for inputting the plurality of the secondary telephone numbers, or both the extension number and the secondary telephone number designated by the direct input means for directly inputting the particular information," as recited in Claim 4 (emphasis added).

Even if Yoshida is deemed to show all that it is cited for, and even assuming the proposed combination of that reference with Endo would be proper, the result of such combination would still fail to meet the terms of Claim 4, and that claim is, therefore, deemed clearly allowable over both patents.

Claim 7 is directed to an image communication apparatus transmitting a subaddress signal. The apparatus includes: (1) extension number input means for inputting a plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal; (2) secondary telephone number input means for inputting a plurality of secondary telephone numbers; (3) direct input means for directly inputting particular information; (4) determination means for determining whether or not the particular information, which is a plurality of extension numbers as information of subaddress signal or a plurality of secondary telephone numbers, is inputted in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T. 33 by the direct input means; and (5) display means for displaying an acknowledge message when the particular information is inputted from the

direct input means and when the plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal or a plurality of secondary telephone numbers are determined to be inputted in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T. 33 by the determination means.

For reasons substantially along the lines discussed above in connection with Claim 4, Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Endo that would teach or suggest (1) extension number input means for inputting a plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal; (2) secondary telephone number input means for inputting a plurality of secondary telephone numbers; (3) determination means for determining whether or not the particular information, which is a plurality of extension numbers as information of subaddress signal or a plurality of secondary telephone numbers, is inputted in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T. 33 by the direct input means; or (4) display means for displaying an acknowledge message when the particular information is inputted from the direct input means and when the plurality of extension numbers as information of the subaddress signal or a plurality of secondary telephone numbers are determined to be inputted in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation T. 33 by the determination means, as recited in Claim 7.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

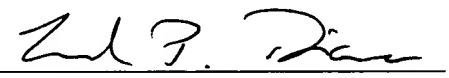
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention,

however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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